

YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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R E P O R T

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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# TO THE YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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MARTOCK, *February*, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to report for the year ended 31st December last, on sickness and mortality, happening within your district, and on enquiries and proceedings relating thereto.

Herewith are tabular statements of (A.) mortality, (B.) notified diseases, and (C.) comparative birth and death rate for preceding years.

The total number of deaths from all causes is 248. The general death-rate per 1,000 population, 13·58,—comparing favourably with preceding years. Vide Table C.

Twenty-five deaths were due to zymotic disease, the zymotic death-rate being 1·38. No death occurred from Scarlet Fever, nor from Diphtheria. Two children died from Membranous Croup; Five deaths were from Enteric Fever. No death from Puerperal Fever or Erysipelas. Four children died from Measles and three from Whooping Cough. Eight deaths were registered as from Diarrhœa, five of which were of young children and two others (adults) were in complication of different diseases.

SCARLET FEVER.—Ten cases have been notified; three from Martock sub-registration district, viz.: Load 1, Tintinhull 1, Stoke-sub-Hamdon 1, South Petherton 7.

The disease was mild in character, the cases widely scattered, and effectually dealt with.

The School at Long Load was closed on account of a case of Scarlet Fever in a house immediately adjacent. This was the only case in the village.

Cases notified and deaths occurring during previous years :—

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Cases notified—	43	110	30	20	42	33	10
Deaths—	2	3	1	0	0	1	0





DIPHTHERIA.—Four cases were notified, all very slight in character, and for which no local cause was apparent.

Cases notified and deaths occurring during previous years :—

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Cases notified—	3 ...	10 ...	3 ...	2 ...	4 ...	7 ...	4
Deaths—	0 ...	2 ...	1 ...	0 ...	0 ...	1 ...	0

MEMBRANOUS CROUP.—Two cases, both fatal, in children under 5 years of age.

Cases notified and deaths occurring during previous years :—

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Cases notified—	1 ...	1 ...	2 ...	0 ...	4 ...	2 ...	2
Deaths—	0 ...	1 ...	1 ...	0 ...	4 ...	2 ...	2

MEASLES.—Not being notifiable, a correct estimate of the existence and frequency of the disease is not possible. Four deaths were registered, all of children under 5 years of age.

Deaths occurring in previous years :—

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	1 ...	3 ...	8 ...	0 ...	8 ...	10 ...	4

WHOOPING COUGH.—Three children, all under 5 years of age, died from this cause ; in two of these complication of other diseases existed.

ERYSIPELAS.—Sixteen cases as against nineteen of last year. No death.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Only one case was notified, that of Puerperal Septicæmia, which was not fatal. A death occurred from Puerperal Septicæmia, another from Peritonitis seven days after delivery. In consideration of its dangerous and highly infectious character amongst parturient women, it is most important that cases of Puerperal Septicæmia, should be promptly notified as such, or under the misnomer "Puerperal Fever."

Cases coming to the knowledge of the M. O. H.—

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Cases—	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	1 ...	3
Deaths—	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	1 ...	2

DIARRHŒA.—Nine deaths were caused by or in connection with diarrhœa. Three of these were children under one year of age, the adult cases, with one exception, being complicated with other diseases.

Deaths in preceding years :—

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	1 ...	5 ...	1 ...	2 ...	5 ...	2 ...	9



RHEUMATIC FEVER.—Caused one death, through implication of the heart.

PHTHISIS.—Twelve deaths have been registered from this cause.

Deaths during preceding years :—

1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
24 ...	19 ...	9 ...	13 ...	10 ...	13 ...	12

The existence and propagation of Phthisis is intimately connected with the housing of the wage-earning class, and often with the construction and arrangements of the dwellings of others. Bedrooms opening into each other, without fire places and frequently with windows not made to open are to be found in cottages in this district. With better houses, and a better water supply, the public health in country districts is capable of great improvement.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Twenty-five cases were notified, located as follows :—One at Rimpton, this being a very mild case in a child, possibly due to a local cause which was remedied.

Two at West Coker, for which I was unable to trace a cause ; certainly the water was not in fault.

Two cases, in the same house, at Hazelbury, may have been due to sanitary defects, which were remedied. The water was chemically pure.

One case at North Perrott, in a child, for which no cause could be traced.

One case at Ilchester Mead was probably due to the use of water from a polluted well during a temporary scarcity in the public supply.

In the month of May, Five cases at Stoke-sub-Hamdon, were notified, and one in September. Five of these were children attending the National School, the other case being that of the School Mistress.

I reported to the Stoke-sub-Hamdon Sanitary Parochial Committee the occurrence, and the circumstances of the disease, the over-crowded and insanitary condition of the School, and the absence of any water supply.

I attended a meeting of the same Committee, and explained the conditions alluded to in report, the deficiency and impurity of the water supply generally at Stoke, and the urgent necessity for pure and wholesome water, other than from shallow wells.

A copy of this Report was sent to the Yeovil Rural District







Council, with a statement of my attendance at the meeting of the Stoke-sub-Hamdon Sanitary Parochial Committee, and personal explanation of the present system and the need of an adequate supply of wholesome water.

Up to the present time no improvement has been made.

Since October 26th, twelve cases of typhoid fever at South Petherton were notified. Two of these were at Watergore, a hamlet just outside the town.

I reported to the South Petherton Parochial Sanitary Committee, the outbreak of the disease, the insanitary condition of the houses, especially in Butt Lane, the direct evidence of the water-borne nature of the disease, as shown by the sewage pollution of many of the wells, and the necessity for a supply of wholesome water to the Town.

Reports to the same effect were made to the Local Government Board, and to the Yeovil Rural District Council.

There is no Isolation Hospital in the neighbourhood and the great difficulty of nursing the Patients in their own homes was met by the energy and liberality of private individuals.

In September last, I wrote as follows to the Martock Sanitary Parochial Committee, calling attention to "the absence in the Town of Martock of efficient means for disposal and removal of sewage. I would especially allude—First, to the Bower Hinton and Water Street sewers which empty into the brook below Hurst Bridge; the smell from this outfall is very bad. Second, to the state of the brook flowing past the Vicarage; this stream, often stagnant, receives sewage and filth of all descriptions, is a mere cesspool and most offensive. Third, the badly constructed drains in North Street, without means of flushing, with untrapped openings, are a most serious nuisance. I have received from residents in Martock, and others, complaints of the intolerable smells. I ask your serious consideration of the above, and for early information as to any proposed scheme for removal and disposal of sewage at Martock."

Since the receipt of my letter, the Sanitary Parochial Committee has engaged the services of an eminent Sanitary Engineer, in reference to levels, &c. Meetings have been held to discuss the adoption of the Septic Tank system.

Up to the present time no practical decision has been arrived at.



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I reported to the Ash Parish Council, and to the Rural District Council, on the insanitary condition of the ditch on the South side of the Road running through Ash. A Sub-Committee of the District Council inspected and reported to the Ash Parish Council, the necessity for an abatement of the nuisance. Nothing further has been done.

In conclusion, I beg to say that Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, Slaughter-houses, and Bakehouses have been periodically inspected.

Appended is the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. DIXON ADAMS, M.D.

*Medical Officer of Health*

*Yeovil Rural District Council.*





# SUMMARY OF TABLE A.

Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	39
1 year and under 5	...	...	...	15
5 years „ „ 15	...	...	...	3
15 years „ „ 25	...	...	...	17
25 years „ „ 65	...	...	...	69
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	105
At all ages	...	...	...	248

Mortality from subjoined causes distinguishing deaths of children under five years of age.

			Under 5	5 and upwards	Total
Membranous Croup	...	...	2	0	2
Enteric Fever	...	...	0	5	5
Puerperal Fever	...	...	0	2	2
Measles	...	...	4	0	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	3	0	3
Diarrhœa	...	...	3	6	9
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	0	1	1
Phthisis	...	...	0	12	12
Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy			9	36	45
Heart Disease	...	...	2	35	37
Injuries	...	...	1	2	3
All other diseases	...	...	30	95	125
Totals	...	...	54	194	248



## SUMMARY OF TABLE B.

Martock	...	...	Population in 1891	5988.	Births in 1898.	151.		
Coker	...	...	„	„	5416.	„	„	118.
South Petherton	...	...	„	„	3050.	„	„	79.
Yeovil Rural	...	...	„	„	4329.	„	„	100.
Total	...	...	„	„	18783.	„	„	448.

New cases of Infectious Sickness in each registration sub-district coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.

		Martock.	Coker.	S. Petherton.	Yeovil Rural.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	...	3	0	7	0	10
Diphtheria	...	2	1	0	1	4
Membranous Croup		1	1	0	0	2
Enteric Fever	...	6	5	12	2	25
Continued Fever	...	1	0	0	0	1
Puerperal Fever	...	1	1	0	1	3
Erysipelas	...	5	1	7	3	16





TABLE C.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATE FOR THE PAST  
SEVEN YEARS.

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Births.....	495	496	478	476	534	471	448
Deaths .....	338	264	261	292	257	243	248
Deaths from Zymotic Disease .....	5	22	10	15	21	20	25
Infantile Deaths under 1 year .....	63	46	56	59	45	46	39
Population.....	18,254	18,254	18,254	18,254	18,254	18,254	18,254
Birth Rate per 1000 population .....	27.11	27.172	26.186	25.342	28.44	25.802	24.542
Death Rate per 1000 population .....	18.51	14.402	14.29	15.545	13.682	12.992	13.586
Zymotic Death Rate per 1000 population	.273	1.2	.547	.79	1.123	1.069	1.386
Infantile Death Rate per 1000 births regis- tered .....	127.27	92.741	117.154	123.949	84.269	97.664	87.053
Death Rate from Noti- fiable Diseases per 1000 population ...	.218	.712	.328	.106	.427	.372	.493



# YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT.

## *Report of Sanitary Inspector for 1898.*

Number of Complaints	...	...	...	...	66
Number of Inspections	...	...	as Complaints & Periodically		
Number of Re-Inspections (not including bakehouses, &c.)	...				348
Number of Orders issued for Sanitary Arrangements	...	...			71
Remainder of improvements affected and nuisances abated by personal interview or letter.					
HOUSES.—Plans submitted and approved in Bye Law Parishes	...				25
Examined (new) for Certificates in Bye Law Parishes	...				15
"          "          "          Other Parishes	...				5
Repaired (Housing of Working Classes Act)	...	...			9
Disinfected, limewashed	...	...	...		12
Closed	...	...	...	...	1
Dangerous Structure Removed	...	...	...		1
Overcrowding Prevented	...	...	...		4
DRAINS. New 34. Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped	...	...			39
Connected with Sewers	...	...	...		29
PRIVIES. New, Repaired or Vaults provided	...	...			12
Earth Closets Substituted	...	...	...		5
W.C's. substituted	...	...	...	...	8
WATER SUPPLY. Well Waters Analysed	...	...	...		37
Public Supply Enforced	...	...	...		22
"          "          laid on (Tintinhull)	...	...	...		34
New Wells and other supplies	...	...	...		11
Wells deepened, cleansed and protected	...	...	...		17
CLEANSING Vaults, ditches, etc., and removal of accumulations of manure &c.,	...	...	...	...	66
PIGSTIES. Removed 6, drained 1					
BAKEHOUSES. Inspected periodically.					
SLAUGHTER HOUSES. Inspected periodically.					
DAIRIES. Inspected periodically.					
FACTORIES. Inspected periodically.					
PETROLEUM. Sale of supervised.					
LEGAL PROCEEDINGS under Housing of Working Classes Act	...				1

(Signed) N. G. FISH.







